



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

JUN 19 2012

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Paul Gosar  
U.S. House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gosar:

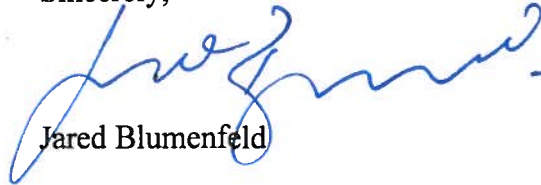
Thank you for your letter of May 11, 2012 to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson regarding the Tuba City Dump (Dump), located on the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe reservations. The Administrator has requested our Regional Office in San Francisco to respond. Your letter expresses concerns that groundwater contamination from the Dump is posing an imminent threat of contaminating the drinking water sources in Moenkopi, and suggests that EPA strongly consider taking immediate action to contain groundwater, before completion of the Superfund remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) being performed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) with EPA oversight under an enforceable agreement.

EPA shares your interest in ensuring that the limited drinking water available for the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe in this area remains safe and that the regulatory process to select appropriate cleanup actions takes place expeditiously. The remedial investigation currently being conducted is necessary to fully ascertain any potential risks from the Dump to the supply wells, and will be performed on a schedule that will ensure ongoing protection of the water supply. The feasibility study will evaluate specific detailed alternatives for cleanup of groundwater, the dump material, or both, to ensure that any remedy selected is the best alternative. EPA believes that existing studies and information do not support the need for a groundwater response action before this work is completed.

The fieldwork to complete the remedial investigation is beginning this month. The critical information from these field efforts will be available within the next six months. The Record of Decision is anticipated by early 2014. EPA is continuing to monitor the water from the supply wells and surrounding monitoring well network, and will reconsider taking earlier action should new information indicate it is necessary to protect drinking water. We are committed to continuing to work closely with the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe throughout the RI/FS and remedy selection process.

If you have questions or need any additional information, please have your staff contact my Congressional Liaison, Brent Maier, who can be reached at (415) 947-4256.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared Blumenfeld", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jared Blumenfeld